

18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Re: End of Year Letter (0148-23ASW)**

Thank you for your continued support as we come to the close of another fantastic academic year.

We have continued to build on our positive monitoring visits throughout the last two academic years. We are expecting Ofsted next term to undertake a full inspection that will hopefully see us change our grading. We are looking forward to being able to show them what an amazing school we have become. We have had intensive support and scrutiny from many external visitors including two HMI inspectors who have all recognised the progress we have made.

**School Day Timings**

Following DfE guidance, which comes into effect in September, schools must now operate a 32.5-hour week. With this in mind, the school gates will open at 8:25am and **pupils must be in school by 8:30am**. Please discuss this with your child and ensure they are aware they must be in form for 8:30am each school day.

The school day overview can be found on our website via: [The School Day](#)

There has also been a change to the June 2025 Inset Day, we will now be open to pupils on 27<sup>th</sup> June and our Inset day will be Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024. For updated term dates, please visit: [Longfield Academy - Term Dates](#)

**Staff Changes**

As always, we say goodbye to some staff this summer and welcome new staff starting in September:

<b>Leavers / Vacant Positions</b>	<b>Replacement / change of role</b>
Mr Payton, Head of Art Ms Austin, Teacher of Art	Head of Art, vacant post Teacher of Art no longer required
Mr Rich, Head of Design & Technology	Miss Leighton has been acting Hed of Department and has now been successfully appointed as Head of DT
DT Teacher Position	As Miss Leighton becomes Head of DT, Mr Conlin joins us in September as a new DT teacher
Miss Armitage, Head of English	Mrs Parten has been successfully appointed to the Head of English
Second in English Position	Ms Hodgson joins us in September and has been appointed as the new Second in English
Vacant English Position	Mrs Smith joins us in September as an English Teacher
Vacant Assistant Headteacher Position	Mrs Leverton has been internally appointed onto the Leadership Team. Mr Guy has been appointed as Teacher of Spanish and will take over Mrs Leverton’s timetable.

Cont...

Headteacher: Mrs A. Sweeten

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<b>Leavers / changes cont...</b>	<b>Replacement / change of role cont...</b>
Mrs Bowman, Business and ICT	Mrs Carter, Teacher of Computing and Business will join us in October. Miss Peason will support with Business lessons until Mrs Carter joins us
Mrs Walker, Assistant SENCO	As Mrs Walker retires, we will welcome Mr Griffiths as Assistant SENDCo
Mr Paul, Year Manager	Mrs Davies has returned from maternity leave and retakes the reins as Year Manager
Vacant Head of Science Position	Mrs Quinn joins us in September as Head of Science
Mr Thompson – Assistant Head	Mr Thompson is returning to focus on teaching and will be a member of the PE department. Mr Tattersall has been internally appointed to replace Mr Thompson on the Leadership Team and will have responsibility for Personal Development and Literacy.
Miss Young, Teacher of PE	Teaching post no longer required
Mrs Battell, Teacher of History	Teaching post no longer required

In addition, we have internally appointed Ms Pearson as a Cover Teacher to minimise the impact of external supply staff.

I am sure you will join me in thanking all staff who are leaving or moving role for their commitment and dedication to the children of Longfield. We are really excited about our new appointments and look forward to developing new ideas and foci. I am extremely pleased to say, that we now have a full science team and the department have already shown significant progress under the leadership of Ms Mattless, Director of Science, who was appointed in January 2024.

### **Year Leader Changes**

The following Year Leaders are in place from September 2024. If you have any questions regarding your child, please contact the Year Leader in the first instance followed by the SLT link if you require further clarification or support.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Year Leader</b>	<b>SLT link</b>
Year 7	Miss Harrison	Mr Tattersall
Year 8	Mr Craggs	Miss Wheatley
Year 9	Mrs Davies	Mrs Leverton
Year 10	Miss Piggett	Mr Willan
Year 11	Mrs Thomas	Mrs Douglas

### **Form Tutors**

For information on form groups and tutors, please see the form tutor table on the final page of this letter.

### **Uniform**

Please support us to ensure that the following items of uniform are compliant with our expectations. Failure to comply may result in pupils being required to borrow items from the school.

Please be aware, if pupils refuse to accept our alternatives, a sanction may be imposed.

**A reminder that skirts are no longer part of our uniform.** Please comply with this expectation to avoid any unnecessary conversations and/or disruptions to your child's learning when we return on **Tuesday 3rd September 2024.**

**We will continue with the summer uniform until after October half term when we will change to the winter uniform of shirt, tie and jumper.**

Years 7 – 10 will wear a tie with a silver background and a navy stripe.

Year 11 – will wear a tie with a navy background and a silver stripe (one tie will be given to them on their first day in school in September 2024.

**Uniform Expectations:** -

- Black school shoes – not trainers. Shoes should not have badges or embellishments.
- Trousers must have a **button and zip** fastening (not just decoration). Leggings are not permitted.
- Please ensure **all** uniform and PE kit has your **child's name written on the tag** so we can return it if it gets misplaced.
- All jewellery must be left at home (with the exceptional of a conventional watch – smart watches are not permitted). If jewellery is worn, it will be confiscated and while every attempt will be made to keep it safe, we will not take responsibility for lost items.
- Piercings of any kind are **not** allowed. This is for health and safety reasons. **New piercings will not be accepted as a reason to wear / refusal to remove them.**

For further information regarding uniform, including information on how to access financial assistance or second hand uniform, please see the [School Uniform Policy](#). For information regarding purchasing uniform from our uniform suppliers, please visit their website [Longfield – Elizabeths Schoolwear](#)

**Equipment**

Pupils must arrive equipped for their learning:

- All pupils **must have a school bag** - carrying items in pockets is not acceptable
- Pupils should purchase additional equipment such as a 30cm ruler, highlighters and additional pens
- A scientific calculator must be purchased (they can be purchased from the maths department)
- A planner will be given to pupils free of charge on the first day we return. If the planner is lost, one must be purchased at a cost of £3.50
- Basic stationery will also be provided on the first day, such as: black, green & red pen, pencil, 15cm ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener, additional stationery can be purchased from school.

**All the amazing things we have achieved this Year:**

<b>Area of Achievement</b>	<b>Progress and impact</b>
Year 11 2023 results	Ranked <b>second in Darlington for Progress</b> -0.09. Second only to Carmel.
Quality First Teaching	Research based development of teaching and learning, and extensive external verification to support improvements in teaching and learning.

Ofsted Priorities	All 8 priority areas identified in April 2022 have been addressed and impact demonstrated.
Mental Health and SEND support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in class Teaching Assistant support from 1 to 5 and still recruiting</li> <li>• A 'Personalised Learning Centre' (PLC) that comprises of a SEND base, counselling service and Year Manager support</li> <li>• 2 regulation rooms with weighted blankets and regulation tools</li> <li>• <b>Programs of support:</b> Zones of Regulation / Occupational Therapy / Anger</li> <li>• Management Gremlins / Restorative Practices / Emotional Literacy support (ELSA), Drawing and Talking therapy / support for Emotional Based School Avoidance.</li> <li>• Access to external support; MIND, CAMHS, Listening Post, Harbour, Being Me, Wellbeing Nurse Service, Future Steps</li> </ul> <p><b>Over 150 children have accessed these services</b></p>
Pledges	<p><b>93% of the whole school have achieve one pledge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 44% have achieved up to 4 pledges</li> <li>• 21% have achieved up to 6 pledges</li> <li>• 10% have achieved all 10 pledges</li> </ul>
Charity / Community Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MacMillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning</li> <li>• OAP Christmas Party</li> <li>• VE Day celebrations to support Listing Post and Mental Health</li> <li>• Refugee Week focus and donations</li> <li>• Food bank donations</li> <li>• Children in Need</li> <li>• Local community litter picks</li> </ul>
Enrichment & Cultural Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skiing trip</li> <li>• London visit</li> <li>• Every Beat – Drama Performance</li> <li>• Longfield Live – 25 performances from individual singers, dancers, bands, Gymnasts and compare)</li> <li>• Enrichment week – a range of cultural activities / trips such as: Barcelona, York, Planet Leisure, water polo, climbing, Wake Park visit, bowling and cycling to Archers Ice-cream Parlour, field work, singing lessons, martial arts, dance classes, drama workshop</li> <li>• Sport Day – including traditional sports day activities and inflatables</li> <li>• 41 enrichment clubs to choose from</li> <li>• Y11 Relationships and Sex Education Day</li> </ul>
Careers Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y8 Enterprise Day – renewable energy and planning a wind farm</li> <li>• 100% achievement in all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks for Careers Development</li> <li>• Work Experience – 95% of Y10 attended work placements</li> <li>• Silver Award for sign up to National Citizenship Service</li> <li>• Y11 Apprenticeship workshop, National Career Service assembly, Post 16 Options evening for parents, application completion workshop</li> </ul> <p><b>Visits to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y10 Middlesbrough College, Stockton Riverside College, QE 6<sup>th</sup> Form, Darlington College, Future Pathways Event</li> <li>• Y9 Sunderland University, What's Next (apprenticeship and technical</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pathways), visit to CPI</li> <li>• Y8 NHS Careers performance, Future Pathways Event</li> </ul>
Student Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longfield Book Club introduced</li> <li>• Rewards improved and new one added</li> <li>• Dance Club introduced</li> <li>• More activities during break and lunchtime (table tennis, football, basketball)</li> <li>• Changes to the queuing system</li> <li>• More Pizzini's on offer</li> <li>• Voting in the Longfield 'General Election'</li> </ul>
	Darlington Youth Parliament – 2 members of Longfield appointed
	One pupil appointed to the Darlington Advisory Group
	<b>Funding raised to support:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parkour club</li> <li>• More equipment for positive play</li> <li>• Swimming lessons</li> <li>• Cycling lesson</li> </ul>

### Dates / Events for September 2024

- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Y7 PROUD Day
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Year 7 Photographs
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 5pm – 5:30pm, Y10 Work Experience Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 9am – 10:30am, Y7 Photo Catch-Up Morning
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 9:15am – 11am, Year 7 & 8 MacMillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning (For parents / carers of Year 7 and 8 pupils.)

### Opening Hours over the Summer Holidays

- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024, open 9:00am to 3:00pm
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024, open 9:00am to 3:00pm
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024, open 9:00am to 3:00pm

**Closed on all other days throughout the summer holidays.**

Last but not least, the staff and I wish you all a safe and happy summer break. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on **Tuesday 3rd September 2024.**

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Sweeten  
Headteacher

## Form Groups and Tutors

Year Leader	Form	Teacher	Room
Y7 Miss Harrison SLT Link: Mr Tattersall	7 - Falcons 1	Miss Leighton	DT1
	7 – Lions 1	Mr Blount	MU1
	7 – Rhinos 1	Mrs Moore / Mr Raw	FO2
	7 – Sharks 1	Mr Metcalfe	IT1
Y8 Mr Craggs SLT Link: Miss Wheatley	8 - Falcons 1	Mrs Taylor / Miss Pearson	S1
	8 – Lions 1	Miss Roberts	S7
	8 – Lions 2	TBC	TBC
	8 – Rhinos 1	Mr Tearney	S3
	8 – Sharks 1	Dr Owen	S5
Y9 Mrs Davies SLT Link: Ms Leverton	9- Falcons 1	Dr Quinn	S2
	9 – Falcons 2	Miss Chapman	L1
	9 – Lions 1	Mr Rutter	G1
	9 – Rhinos 1	Miss Edwards	H1
	9 – Rhinos 2	Mrs McGregor (nee Cochrane)	G2
	9 – Sharks 1	Miss Pearson / Mr Thompson	SH1
Y10 Miss Piggett SLT Link: Mr Willan	10 - Falcons 1	Mr Battell	M1
	10 - Falcons 2	Mr Ashcroft	M7
	10 – Lions 1	Miss Rowlandson	M3
	10 – Rhinos 1	Miss Kirkbride	M5
	10 – Rhinos 2	Mr Collinson	IT2
	10 – Sharks 1	Miss Lees	E6
	10 – Sharks 2	Mr Wilkinson	M2
Y11 Mrs Thomas SLT Link: Mrs Douglas	11 - Falcons 1	Mr Bland	H2
	11 - Falcons 2	Mrs Page	E4
	11 – Lions 1	Mrs Barnett	S4
	11 – Rhinos 1	Miss Dodsworth	E2
	11 – Sharks 1	Ms Foster	HS1
	11 – Sharks 2	Mrs Parten	E7